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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/423,948	04/14/2000	LEONID BERESNEV	2345/103	7349

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HOAN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/423,948

Applicant(s)

BERESNEV ET AL.

Examiner

HOAN C. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6-16 based on the Response filed on 09/26/2006 have been considered but are in the same ground(s) of rejection.

Therefore, this is Final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 6-8, 10-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by De Lang (US3635552) provided in IDS.

In regard to claims 6 and 12, De Lang teaches a tunable interferometer for measuring an optical surface comprising:

- at least one light source 1;
- a reference surface 5, light from the at least one light source impinging the reference surface, the reference surface reflecting a first interference beams wherein the reference surface is stationary when at least one light source impinges the reference surface 5;

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- a test object 12, light from the at least one light source impinging the test object, the test object reflecting a second interference beam;
- at least one beam splitter 3, the first interference beam and the second interference beam striking the at least one beam splitter; and
- a polarizer 6 & 7 polarizing the first interference beam and the second interference beam so that the first interference beam and the second interference beam each have a different polarization state relative to one another; and
- an analyzer 10 positioned at an output of the interferometer, the analyzer having a variable polarization state, the analyzer tuning the interferometer as a function of the polarized first interference beam and the second interference beam, wherein depending on the polarization state of the analyzer, an additional phase inherently is introduced into at least one of the first and second interference beams of different polarizations so that an interference fringe pattern is displaced by a distance (with electrical signals produced in detectors 32-33 having a phase difference equal the optical phase difference between beams 15 and 16; the col. 3 lines 19-27).

wherein

Claims 7 and 13:

- the interferometer is a two-beam interferometer, wherein the light is a linearly polarized light and wherein the polarizer includes a first $\lambda/4$ retardation plate 7 allocated to the reference surface, and a second $\lambda/4$ retardation plate 6 positioned before the analyzer.

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Claims 8 and 14:

- the analyzer includes a rotatable linear analyzer (abstract and col. 3 lines 28-29).

Claims 10 and 16:

- the analyzer is arranged physically separate from the interferometer.

Claim 11:

- the test object 12 is stationary when the at least one light source impinges the test object.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Lang (US3635552) as applied to claims 6-8, 10-14 and 16, and in further view of Sharp et al. (US5627666).

De Lang fails to disclose the interferometer having the analyzer including an electrically tunable liquid-crystal element with a linear polarizer.

Sharp et al. teach (Fig. 3) the interferometer (col. 2 lines 20-21) having the analyzer including an electrically tunable liquid-crystal element 10/20 with a linear polarizer 40.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify a tunable interferometer as De Lang disclosed with the analyzer including an electrically tunable liquid-crystal element with a linear polarizer for increasing tuning range (col. 2 lines 35-46).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on Sep 26, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's ONLY arguments are follows:

De Lang reference does not identically recite each and every feature of claim 6 including the required analyzer's tuning and state configurations.

Examiner's responses to Applicants' ONLY arguments are follows:

De Lang discloses all limitations of claims. Applicant fails to state specifically the features of claim 6 that are not in reference. The analyzer is always tuning. However, no clear information about tuning (at particular frequency?) and state configurations (interference configurations? or else?) of analyzer is cited in claim 6. Therefore, the argument about "the required analyzer's tuning and state configurations" is irrelevant.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HOAN C. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-2296. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY:8:00AM-4:30PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HOAN C. NGUYEN
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

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ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER